

Remarks

This communication responds to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2006 for the application captioned above. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "lowermost region" instead of "lowermost regions" as pointed out by the Examiner to more clearly point out that which is claimed. This amendment is not made for reasons of patentability, but instead is done to clarify the invention.

Claim 1 recites that the "deflecting means are arranged adjacent the brush and extending into the bristles at an angular distance behind the point at which the bristles touch the surface to be cleaned *relative to a direction of rotation*". It appears the Examiner's difficulty with the recitation that the deflecting means is disposed "behind the point at which the bristles touch the surface to be cleaned" seems to be that it is not being read with the subsequent limitation "relative to a direction of rotation". The brush, when in use, rotates counter-clockwise as viewed in Figures 1 and 3. The deflection point being *behind* the ground contact point when considered relative to this counter-clockwise rotation. Thus the scope of claim 1 can be clearly and accurately determined.

Claim 7 has been amended to show the housing having a forward facing edge and a rearwardly facing edge. Also, claim 7 has been amended to recite "a deflector provided adjacent the brush on a forwardly-facing side thereof and extending rearwardly into the bristles at an angular distance from the point at which the bristles touch the surface to be cleaned". Thus claims 7 clearly points out that the deflector is on a forward face and extends rearward into the bristles.

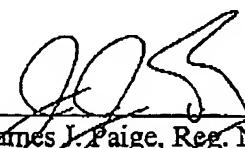
In light of the above, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. As these are the only claims pending in the application, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

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The application presents two independent claims and 15 total claims. Please treat any communication filed at any time in this application, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) towards timely submission as incorporating a proper petition for an extension of the appropriate length of time. If any additional fees are required to enter the present amendment, applicant hereby authorizes the office to charge our Deposit Account No. 061910. If the Examiner feels prosecution of the present application can be materially advanced by telephonic interview the undersigned would welcome a call at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/2/06



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